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'Bullfinch trial taught us many important lessons' p5

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Thursday, January 16 - Wednesday, January 22, 2014 | Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 | www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

FEARS MOUNT OVER SURGERY

Wootton patients label consultation 'superficial'

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

USERS of Wootton doctors' surgery have reacted angrily to a consultation launched by Botley Medical Centre, who run the branch, which could lead to its closure.

The Wootton surgery has been under threat for several months but there are now increased concerns among residents that Botley Medical Centre are trying to shut the site permanently.

A meeting of residents was held in the village's community centre on Tuesday evening, who were unhappy with a questionnaire supplied by Botley Medical Centre about the future of the Wootton surgery.

Sue Srawley, who chaired Tuesday's meeting, said: "The questionnaire really didn't address the number of issues that we have raised with Botley as Wootton patients.

"It was very glib, very superficial, and was loaded in the information that it asked for.

"There is a very entrenched view down at Botley, which was reflected in a conversation I had with their Patient Participation Group leader, that Wootton's surgery presents a significant stumbling block to them.

"They regard it as an imposition and as an underused service, and are very determined on having the surgery close.

"We really have no confidence in their ability to be objective about what is presented to them, and there's a very real sense that it's the beginning of the end."

In a letter sent out to patients by Botley Medical Centre last month, it stated that it was considering withdrawing support for services at the Wootton surgery.

It said that 96 per cent of patients preferred to have their appointments at Botley rather than Wootton and that 600 new patients had registered at Botley in the past six months, although these figures have been disputed by supporters of the Wootton surgery.

Dr John Chadwick, senior

• *Continued on page 3*

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Charity hails grant as 'fantastic' news

LOCAL charity Mind Oxfordshire have been given a grant of over £330,000 from the Big Lottery Fund, to fund a project that will deliver specialist advice to people with mental health problems.

The project has been set up to combat increasing levels of anxiety about recent welfare reforms, and will help people navigate the legislative changes.

It is hoped it will reduce fear among thousands of vulnerable people, caused by changes to benefits and aiming to secure a degree of financial security.

People with multiple needs will be directed to appropriate mainstream services such as drug and alcohol support projects.

It will also provide an outreach service for beneficiaries at more than 20 venues across the county, including mental health team premises and wellbeing centres.

"The grant is fantastic news," said Patrick Taylor, chief executive of Mind Oxfordshire. "We know that mental health problems can damage lives and leave people feeling alone and frightened.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"But it doesn't have to be that way. We want to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support.

"Thanks to the Big Lottery Fund, we will be able to provide expert benefits advice to support people who are already struggling with a mental health problem.

"The welfare benefits system is changing dramatically, and we need to make sure that people with a mental health problem do not lose out.

"This funding will help people claim what they are entitled to, have support and advocacy through difficult appeals processes, and get expert guidance managing the transition from benefits into work."

Alison Rowe, Big Lottery Fund spokesperson, said: "This targeted service by Mind Oxfordshire will respond to a real need from people who are worried about the transition, and provide informed advice."

Make Oxon 'dementia-friendly'

AN Oxfordshire project has set out its aim of making the county "dementia-friendly".

Led by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), the council's Dementia Community Learning Partnership, aims to ensure people do not have to face the condition alone.

The Oxfordshire Dementia Community Learning Partnership aims to improve public awareness and understanding of dementia.

It provides free training and guidance about how to best support and help people with dementia to continue to be part of their local community, both socially and functionally.

Emily Lewis from ORCC said: "Too often dementia spells physical and emotional isolation.

"Our vision is for Oxfordshire to become a county where communities are dementia-friendly.

"People in those communities are supportive and responsive to people with dementia and people with and affected by dementia are able to live well as part of the community."

For more information visit the ORCC website at www.oxonrcc.org.uk.

Cops issue appeal for missing Jacqueline

• *Jacqueline Gulliford*

POLICE are appealing for help from the public after a 54-year-old woman went missing from her home in Eynsham on Tuesday morning.

Jacqueline Gulliford was last seen at around 7.30am when she left her house, and has not been seen since.

She is white, about 5ft 4ins with curly brown hair and glasses. When she was last seen, Jacqueline was wearing a purple outdoors sports style coat.

She does not have a car, or known access to one.

Investigating officer PC Martyn McHale, from Witney police station, said: "We are becoming concerned about the whereabouts of Jacqueline and we urge anyone who knows where she might be to get in touch immediately.

"We have some concern that she might not be in the best frame of mind and so if anyone can help find her, please contact police."

Anyone with information is asked call 101, quoting URN 469 of January 14.

Crackdown continues on rural crime

THAMES Valley Police is running the second phase of Operation Ranger to combat rural crime across South Oxfordshire and the Vale.

This follows the success of last year's 100 days of action.

More action days are being held throughout January and February while PCSOs will be available to visit farms and rural businesses to visibly mark people's property with a CREMARK pen.

Ali Smith, crime prevention and reduction advisor, said: "We did a survey of our country watch members and the message we got was that people want to mark their property but they do not have the time.

"So we will go to their farms and mark their equipment for them.

"We receive so much property that is not marked and could be returned to their owners.

"It is a deterrent to criminals who do not want to be caught with property that has been identified as stolen."

Action days are being held in Didcot (January 16), Abingdon (January 17), Thame (January 25), Henley (January 30), Wantage (February 1), Faringdon (February 4) and Wallingford (February 8).

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New challenge beckons for Abingdon student

A SIXTH form student from Abingdon School has been awarded a prestigious scholarship in the United States, as one of only 36 applicants to be accepted worldwide.

Henrik Cox, 18, was one of 60,000 people who applied for the Robertson Scholarship, a joint merit scholarship and leadership development programme at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is the second student from Abingdon School to be awarded the scholarship, following on from Alexander Hatzis in 2012.

The scholarship offers Henrik a unique 'dual citizenship' at both universities, which will allow him access to courses and facilities across both campuses.

It will cover college costs as well as full funding for three summers of global travel, research and internships.

Henrik said: "I am surprised and can't quite believe it. It's an amazing opportunity.

"The application process was tough, especially the interview but it's brilliant to have got through.

"I wanted to study in the U.S. because it offers a broad curriculum where I can continue with design and economics as well as my main interest, engineering."

Andrew Swarbrick, who co-ordinates university applications at Abingdon School, said: "There is increasing interest in the opportunities the U.S. offers.

"Last year we had about a dozen boys apply but the actual number who are taking up offers in the U.S. is still very small compared to those choosing to go to UK universities.

"We are keen that pupils make themselves aware of all the opportunities available for higher education so they can make an informed choice as to their next step."

The scholarship was created in 2000 by benefactor Julian Robertson, and applicants are chosen by Robertson himself, along with a board of directors including Duke University president Richard Brodhead and UNC Chapel Hill chancellor Holden Thorp.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Henrik Cox*

Do you have an Abingdon story?

Contact Adam
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News Bites

Grant funding

VALE of White Horse District Council are urging community projects to apply for grant funding of up to £5,000 before the deadline on February 28.

The Capital Community Grant scheme has been set aside for capital expenditure, such as spending on buildings, extensions or equipment, for local organisations.

Council leader Matthew Barber said: "Our local communities are extremely important to us and our continued support and investment is a vital part of our work."

For more information, go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants.

Army open evenings

THE latest in a series of Army Reserve Open Evenings is being held at 7pm on Tuesday, giving people the chance to speak with serving troops at Abingdon's Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholswell Lane.

It is part of a new recruitment campaign taking place in Oxfordshire and the South East.

The aim is to highlight the different jobs and careers that are available in the Army and Army Reserves.

Major General Chris Tickell said: "We want to show potential recruits who are perhaps thinking about how they can improve their careers and lives that there is much more to the Army than meets the eye."

Surgery consultation sparks anger

•*From front page*

partner at Botley Medical Centre, said: "We are considering ways to provide better quality patient care to patients from Wootton. The service we provide at Wootton is expensive and underused, and we want to use our resources more wisely to better serve the majority of our patients.

"We are asking our patients for their views on Wootton branch surgery before we make any decisions. However, if we do apply to close the branch surgery at Wootton, the benefits to patients include five hours of doctor time back at Botley, and an opportunity to reinvest funding in our Botley premises and apply to extend our facilities."

Botley Medical Centre will also be holding drop-in sessions in coming weeks for Wootton patients to voice their concerns.

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'Bullfinch trial taught us many important lessons'

OXFORDSHIRE County Council's chief executive has pledged that social workers and the police will work "tirelessly" to stop the sexual exploitation of children.

Joanna Simons, along with Thames Valley Police officers and partner organisations, spoke at a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Conference last week.

The event, which was organised by the county council and the Crown Prosecution Service, provided an opportunity to gather as much information as possible from Operation Bullfinch.

Last year's investigation saw seven men convicted of offences including rape, facilitating child prostitution and trafficking towards young women between

By Jack Johnson
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2004 and January 2012.

Mohammed Karrar, Assad Hussain, Zeeshan Ahmed, Kamar Jamil, Anjum Dogar, Akhtar Dogar and Bassam Karrar were jailed for a total of 95 years.

Ms Simons said: "Working together with the police on Bullfinch, we have learned that successful prosecutions require a new approach by everyone involved in child protection.

"We need to make sure we see the child as a victim as opposed to a young person making bad choices."

She added: "Previously prosecutions have relied on victims being willing and able to give evidence, and prosecutors and others believing their evidence.

"This is a problem if vulnerable young victims do not report issues to the police or do give initial evidence but then decide that they are unable to proceed or give evidence that may be inconsistent.

"That is why trust is so important.

"Social workers working with police can build that trust with young people which was vital to the success of Bullfinch.

"Our commitment is that we never give up on a child, and will work tirelessly to stop the sexual exploitation of children and if possible enable a prosecution of the abusers."

Around 160 people from across the country attended the conference at the Kassam Stadium.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said Thames Valley Police has learned "a great many important lessons" from Operation Bullfinch.

"Thames Valley Police and other local partners have learned a great many important lessons about how to tackle child sexual exploitation and the conference gave us an opportunity to share that learning with colleagues from all over the country," she said.

"It was really well attended and the feedback has been really positive."

• *Joanna Simons*

• *Sara Thornton*

Alison Levitt QC, principal legal advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions, added: "I am convinced that with the police and Crown Prosecution Service working together at an early stage, we can continue to build strong cases to put before the courts."

The seven men convicted of a range of sexual abuse offences against young women in Oxfordshire

• *Mohammed Karrar, 38*

• *Assad Hussain, 32*

• *Zeeshan Ahmed, 27*

• *Anjum Dogar, 31*

• *Kamar Jamil, 27*

• *Akhtar Dogar, 32*

• *Bassam Karrar, 34*

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Floods may be the 'new normal'

• *The recent floods (Pictures by Jacob Barrett)*

OXFORDSHIRE County Council have announced a multi-agency flooding summit will take place in March, after floods severely affected many parts of Oxford and the county in recent weeks.

The council want to bring together relevant organisations to discuss flooding in Oxfordshire, and work to reduce the risk to homes, businesses and transport links.

By Adam Flinn
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It is scheduled to take place on March 21, and comes after flooding has hit the county four times in the past decade.

Cllr Rodney Rose, cabinet member with responsibility for flood risk management, said: "We have now had significant floods two years running, so we may have to face up to flooding as the 'new normal' in Oxfordshire.

"That is why I want to make sure that all the relevant organisations come together as soon as possible to learn lessons from these floods.

"The aim of the summit is to bring together every organisation with a role in reducing the risk of flooding, and agree a way forward.

"We all know that public money for flood defences is limited, so it is very important that we put on a united front in Oxfordshire to get a share of whatever national investment is available."

Water levels in Oxford have receded since their peak at the weekend, which saw major routes into the city including Botley Road and Abingdon Road closed because of flooding.

Both have now reopened, but several flood alerts remain active in the area, including on the River Cherwell from Lower Heyford to Oxford.

Others in Oxfordshire include Ginge Brook in Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, the River Evenlode from Moreton in Marsh to Cassington, the River Glyme at Wootton and Woodstock, and the River Thames at Oxford, Abingdon and Henley.

The Environment Agency is advising communities in the region to remain aware of the potential for further flooding, stating it will be several days before river levels are back to normal.

Some temporary flood defences remain in place in Oxford, with more rain forecast in the coming days.

For updates on flood alerts, go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

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Ambrosden development 'detrimental'

A PLANNING application to build 45 homes in Ambrosden has been rejected for a second time, after Cherwell District Councillors voted against proposals last Thursday.

The Trustees of Norman Collisson Foundation were looking to build 45 homes at Ambrosden Court, off Merton Road, after their first application was refused back in July.

They had requested permission to demolish the existing Ambrosden Court building and replace it with new homes, with 16 allocated for affordable housing.

Cllr Michael Gibbard, lead member for planning, said: "This application is for a large development within a small village and as a council, we feel it is detrimental to Ambrosden.

"Not only would the proposal harm the character and appearance of the village, it also creates very real safety concerns around the new access areas.

"With all this considered, we had no option but to refuse on these grounds."

The council had received letters of objection from Ambrosden Parish Council, who said they would prefer to see the existing building retained and converted into flats.

Half marathon to remember father

• *Wendy Clements*

A CARTERTON school teacher is in training for the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) Warwick Half Marathon, which she is running in memory of her father.

Wendy Clements, 45, will join 3,000 other runners as they run the 13.1 miles around the Warwickshire countryside on March 23, and raise money for the BHF.

It comes after Wendy's father Norman had a heart attack many years ago, and received care and support from specialist heart nurses.

When Norman suffered a fall in August 2012, he moved into a nursing home and continued to receive specialised care until he died in November last year.

Wendy said: "We lived 100 miles away from my father so it has been such a huge comfort to us and a real reassurance to know that he was being properly cared for, for his special needs. I will forever be grateful for that.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"This is a cause and a charity I feel strongly about and I'm ready to raise as much money as I can.

"I have recently been reunited with an old school friend and they have been the first to sponsor me – what great motivation to kick start my training!"

BHF currently support health care professionals across the UK, with 95 working in the South East.

Entry for the event is open to anyone who wishes to take part and costs £23 to enter, with more information available at www.bhf.org.uk/warwick.

People wishing to take part need to sign up in advance, and can do so through the website.

News Bites

Talented pets

'PAWDITIONS' are taking place in Burford later this month to find the pet with the best natural talent, as part of a new advertising campaign for pet charity Blue Cross.

Four finalists will be put forward for a public vote, following the initial auditions taking place at Blue Cross' base in Shilton Road on January 24.

Kim Hamilton, Blue Cross chief executive, said: "We are very excited to be giving the public the opportunity to be included in our brand new advertising campaign."

Three-day fair with an international flavour

A NEW three-day art extravaganza is coming to Oxford next month, with talented international artists showcasing a mix of their modern and contemporary work.

More than 150 artists from across Europe, Japan, Russia, Argentina and India will present paintings, sculptures, photography, printmaking, illustrations and bespoke crafts during the Oxford International Art Fair.

Visitors will be able to speak with the artists, watch them at work and purchase pieces as well as adding their vote to the Oxford International Art Fair Awards.

Joelle Dinnage, from art fair organisers The Global Art Agency, is looking forward to bringing the extravaganza into the city.

She said: "We're setting the scene for art lovers to come along and enjoy a fantastic free day out, viewing the fine pieces on display and learning the stories behind them from the people who created them."

The fair is running from February 7 to 9 at Oxford Town Hall. Go to www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com.

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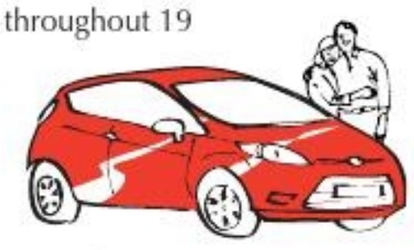

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Mayor's Column

Axel MacDonald

Mayor of Didcot

Hoping for successful 2014

"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink" as the Ancient Mariner's rhyme goes. I'm not aware of any Albatrosses being shot but Oxfordshire, as with the rest of the south, has certainly had its share of heavy rain and floods to bring in the New Year. Minor roads around Didcot have been closed as the flood waters took over the surrounding dry land and made life interesting for residents as we found alternative routes to work. It did suitably demonstrate that the town relies on all the access roads and closure of part of this important network results in significant disruption. I am not aware of any flooding in Didcot itself unlike in 2007 when parts of Ladygrove were affected.

Christmas has been and gone but the work of the charities in the town continues. Over the festive period I saw how some of the larger businesses in the town provide support to charities. Tesco, Sainsburys and Barclays Bank all provided assistance and I'm sure there are many more who also support our charitable organisations. I hope that 2014 proves another successful year for our charities despite the continued constraint on finances.

This year has yet another significance, the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War and 70th anniversary of the allies return to France. The commemorations to mark these events will hopefully include the memory of events and people who have had less publicity in recent years. The return to France in June 1944 and success in May 1945 as the European war was won seems to have been straight forward. The common knowledge folk have of WW2 NW Europe gained from films and documentaries indicated that the Americans had some difficulties at their Omaha beach landing, we then drove the axis forces out of France and there was a dashing but failed attempt to capture the bridge at Arnhem. There was also a glitch from a last attempt by the German army coming through the Ardennes.

Back in Didcot I understand some of the Railway Centre's steam engines were in operation during the war and the Centre will be hosting a D-Day 70th anniversary event on June 7-8. As for myself, I will be in Normandy on Gold Beach as part of a living history group portraying the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers machine gun battalion in the 59th Staffordshire Division.

Bus group's fury after leaked letter

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

THE Oxon School Bus Action Group (OSBAG) has reacted angrily to Oxfordshire County Council, after a cabinet member had sent a private letter to other councillors dismissing the campaign.

The letter was sent by Cllr Melinda Tilley, the council cabinet member for children, education and families.

One section read: "Perhaps 'OSBAG' should listen more to what real parents say they will do, rather than to their own rhetoric which seems to be more about their own personal and, perhaps, political agenda.

"'OSBAG' may have hundreds of 'Facebook friends' but the three or four tee-shirt wearing 'usual suspects' who turned up at each of the 10 public meetings suggests that there is rather less behind the façade."

The news comes as the second consultation on the council's proposed home to school transport policy ended on Tuesday, as they try to reduce spending on all services by 40 per cent.

OSBAG co-ordinator Sue Moon said: "This issue affects thousands of families throughout the county who have gone to the trouble of engaging in the process precisely because they are so fearful of the potential outcome of this policy change.

"To see their options dismissed so flippantly by a senior local politician calls into question the legitimacy of the council's approach to public consultations. But the most disappointing aspect of this letter is that it clearly highlights just how out of touch such an important cabinet member still is with the strength of feeling across the county.

"This is quite simply about the future of children's education in Oxfordshire."

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk
or on **01235 516931**

Cameron praises ambulance service for 'critical' work

WITNEY MP and Prime Minister David Cameron visited the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Foundation on Friday, to speak with staff at the centre.

Mr Cameron spoke with call handlers and clinicians at the service's headquarters in Bicester, and experienced first hand how resources were dispatched to deal with emergencies.

"Clearly the time it takes to respond to a life-threatening event is critical," said Mr Cameron.

"It was helpful to see how this is done in practice and to also hear about changes that are being made to improve the service upon which people rely.

"The flooding provides an extremely difficult situation for those affected areas and I was impressed by what I heard in terms of the work that SCAS have done during this time."

Will Hancock, chief executive for SCAS, said: "We were really privileged to have Mr Cameron visit our service and were very proud to show him what we provide."

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Tip off helps catch Didcot fraudster

A DIDCOT man has been ordered to serve an eight week curfew order after pleading guilty to benefit fraud.

Malcolm Price, 48, of Kibble Close, admitted that he failed to report a change in circumstance in relation to his claims for housing and council tax benefits.

Oxford Magistrates' Court heard how Price failed to tell South Oxfordshire District Council that he had been working as a manager at The Sprat Pub in Didcot.

The 48-year-old claimed more than £6,400 in benefits that he was not entitled to between June 2010 and November 2011.

He was caught following a tip off from a member of the public in October 2011 alleging that he was working in the pub.

Magistrates sentenced Price on an eight week curfew order which prevents him from leaving his place of residence between the hours of 8pm and 7am.

He was also ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and £300 towards the cost of the prosecution.

Cllr David Dodds, cabinet member for Finance at SODC, said: "When someone who claims benefits starts a new job they must inform us immediately."

Cherwell on shortlist for national awards

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

CHERWELL District Council has been nominated for two national awards, with the winners set to be announced in March.

Along with its shared services partner South Northamptonshire Council, Cherwell was shortlisted in the Business Transformation and Community Involvement categories of the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2014.

The awards recognised Cherwell's Connecting Communities programme of free events, which were organised in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations.

Each event aims to engage and inspire those not accessing support or advice, and have helped to increase volunteering and service take up.

Cllr George Reynolds, deputy leader of Cherwell District Council, said: "Being shortlisted for these awards is an indication of the creative work that this council continues to produce.

"The Business Transformation shortlisting recognises the successful joint working between Cherwell and South Northamptonshire that has happened since we appointed a joint chief executive in 2011.

"The result has been protected frontline services, improved support services and £3million in savings.

"The awards have seen their highest number of entries ever so to be shortlisted is a fantastic achievement.

"I am delighted that the hard work done by Cherwell staff has been recognised."

Finalists will find out if they are successful on March 12.

The news comes following Cherwell District Council's success in winning a Gold Community Animal Welfare Award and an Innovator Award from the RSPCA.

They were also jointly given a Department for Communities and Local Government £366,932 Transformation Challenge Award, along with South Northamptonshire and Stratford-on-Avon district councils.

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

Tweeting officers document police activity

SOUTH and Vale police officers are trying a new way of interacting with the public using social media.

They have taken to social media site Twitter to inform the public of road closures, general police activity, serious incidents and to hand out advice.

Up to 15 officers are active on the Twitter page, which currently has 316 followers.

Local communications officer, Merryn Hockaday, said: "Twitter becomes a really useful tool.

"Not just documenting the day to day cases but when there is a serious case it helps to broadcast a serious message."

PC Rob Maris, one of the LPA tweeters, added: " Before I would have just sent a press release to the press office and not had any more involvement but this way I can send it out straight away and it is done very quickly."

However, he would like to see more public involvement.

"I would certainly like more interaction," PC Maris said. "But there have been occasions where the public have been able to add to what we have put out."

You can follow the LPA on @tvpsouthandvale.

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Benefit fraud woman who claimed £28k is sentenced

A 47-YEAR-OLD woman from Blackbird Leys has been jailed for fraudulently claiming over £28,000 in benefits.

Lissiea Davidson has been sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment for failing to declare that she was living with her partner and was hosting foreign students.

She pleaded guilty to dishonestly obtaining housing benefit, council tax benefit, jobseekers allowance, income support and employment and support allowance at Oxford Magistrates Court.

Miss Davidson, of Haldane Road, was charged with dishonestly making false statements to Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

She was also charged with dishonestly failing to declare a change of circumstances relating to her claims for benefit with Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions between April 2009 and December 2012.

In total she stole £29,165.93 and will have to pay back the overpaid benefit to both Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

Dance to the tune of annual festival

• *Joe Lott stars in Alpha on March 5*

• *Artists from the Candoco Dance Company perform on March 10*

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

THE annual Dancin' Oxford festival is set to return next month, with a number of free shows featuring expert dancers with various styles including hip-hop, contemporary and swing.

This will be the eighth time that Dancin' Oxford has been staged in the city since beginning in 2007, and sees dozens of performances taking place between February 28 and March 10.

It aims to increase participation in dance work in the city, as well as initiate and fundraise for dance-based projects.

The festival is run in partnership with Pegasus Theatre, Oxford Playhouse, Oxford Castle and Oxford City Council, to help with development of professional dance artists and companies.

The Festival Launch takes place in the city centre on March 1 with some of Oxford's best dancers performing in Bonn Square and Broad Street.

New for 2014 is The Night Ball, which sees 10 professional dancers visit Oxford Town Hall in a cabaret setting, with audience members given the chance to dance with them.

Baby Boogie returns for another year, as well as Fandango on March 7 for children aged five and under, and a family dance session two days later for all age groups.

Other attractions include Hofesh Schecter's Everyday Moments, Joe Lott's Alpha and a final show featuring a collaboration between Body Politic, Candoco Dance Company, Parasol and other guests.

For the full programme and information about show times and venues, go to www.dancinoxford.co.uk.

News Bites

Mums' choice

NATIONAL parenting website Netmums has named Oxford's Pegasus Theatre as one of the best on offer in the South East, awarding the venue with a gold listing on their site.

Pegasus has been made a 'mums choice', and the awards were set up to acknowledge the job that local theatres do, particularly with the rapid expansion of children's entertainment.

Makes Sense

DEAFBLIND charity Sense is offering athletes from Oxford the opportunity to run this year's London Marathon and raise money for a worthy cause.

Tara Hamdi, from Sense, said: "Whether you're a seasoned runner or a novice, we'll support you every step of the way."

Snatch theft

A WOMAN in her fifties was the victim of a snatch theft in Oxford on Saturday, when her handbag containing a wallet, sunglasses and a mobile phone was taken.

The incident took place between 8.45pm and 9pm on Cavendish Drive, and the offender was a black man aged around 30 years old, clean shaven and of a skinny build.

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News Bites

Holy lectures

FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams is visiting Oxford University later this month, to deliver two lectures on religious beliefs.

His first lecture takes place on January 24, while a second will be on January 29.

For more details, go to www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas.

House fire

FIRE crews were faced with smoke pouring out of a Headington property last Thursday, following a house fire at the address in Peppercorn Avenue.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus managed to extinguish the fire using hose reels to prevent it from spreading.

The occupant evacuated the house safely after being alerted by the smoke alarm.

Crash injury

ONE person was injured following a two-car crash in Oxford on Friday morning, which took place on the northern ring road at around 7am.

The road was closed while emergency services made the scene safe and treated the injured man, and was reopened soon after.

Oxford experts reveal plight of African lions

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AN INTERNATIONAL team including two experts from the University of Oxford have concluded that lions in West Africa are facing extinction, with only an estimated 250 remaining.

The report has been published in the journal PLOS One, co-authored by Oxford's Professor David Macdonald and Dr Lauren Coad.

It reveals that lions in West Africa, specifically between Senegal and Nigeria, are now restricted to four isolated populations, only one of which contains more than 50 lions.

Professor Macdonald said: "Conservationists have suspected that the plight of West African lions was worrying.

"Our work reveals this was wrong – it's catastrophic.

"These results demonstrate that the time for hopeful hand-wringing has passed, and intervention on a scale requiring major international agencies is essential."

Dr Coad added: "Our findings suggest that many of the West African protected areas still supporting lion populations are chronically underfunded and understaffed.

"Many protected areas evaluated for this study did not have the capacity to undertake anti-poaching patrols.

"As a result, lion populations within their boundaries are under threat from poachers, who target both lions and their prey."

The report comes as a result of a six-year study, covering 11 countries where lions were presumed to exist over the last 20 years.

It was discovered that West African lions now only survive in Senegal and Nigeria, and one population on the borders of Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso.

They are genetically different from the more well-known lions of game parks in East and Southern Africa, and are closely related to the extinct Barbary Lions formerly of North Africa.

Fewer than 35,000 lions remain in Africa today, covering about 25 per cent of their historical range.

In West Africa, the lion survives in an area only one per cent the size of its original range, in an area half the size of New York State.

Students are bowled over by Stewart visit

• *Former England cricketer Alec Stewart meets students at The Oxford Academy*

STUDENTS from The Oxford Academy were treated to a visit from former England cricket captain Alec Stewart last week, as he dropped in on a practice session.

The popular batsman joined year nine pupils for a quick innings, before sharing his experience of sport and teamwork at the highest level.

While in Oxford, Alec also met with local business leaders at Clydesdale Bank on West Way, and gave a frank assessment on England's performance in the recent Ashes series.

Emma Reynolds, head of physical education at the academy, said: "We are honoured to have been involved in this special relationship between sport, education and business.

"Our students were inspired by Alec's knowledge of his sport and passion for encouraging others to participate."

Mark Laughlan of Clydesdale Bank added: "Alec's visited certainly struck a chord with students and the local business community alike.

"His career is a testament to his commitment to practice, dedication and teamwork.

"There are all qualities which should resonate with, and inspire, both the next generation of Oxford's sportsmen and women and the city's entrepreneurs."

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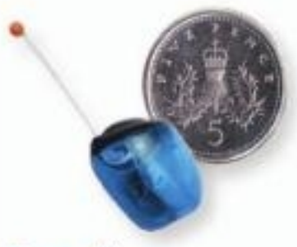

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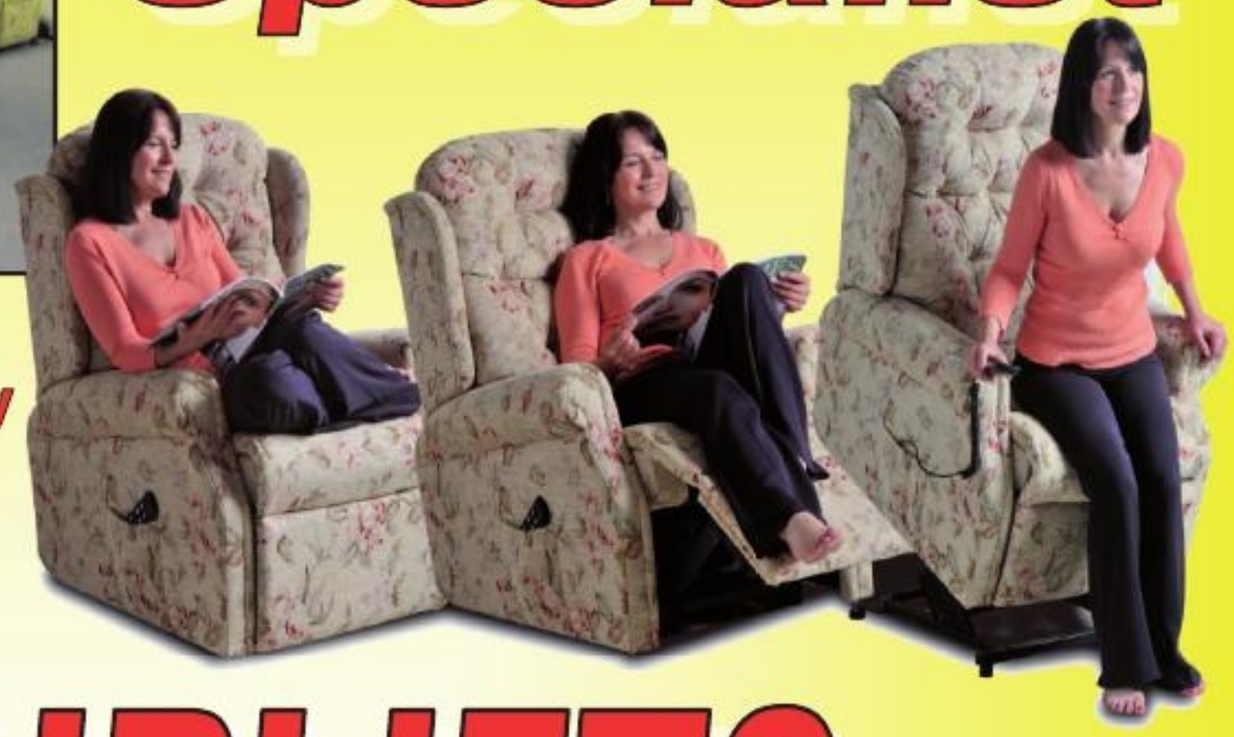

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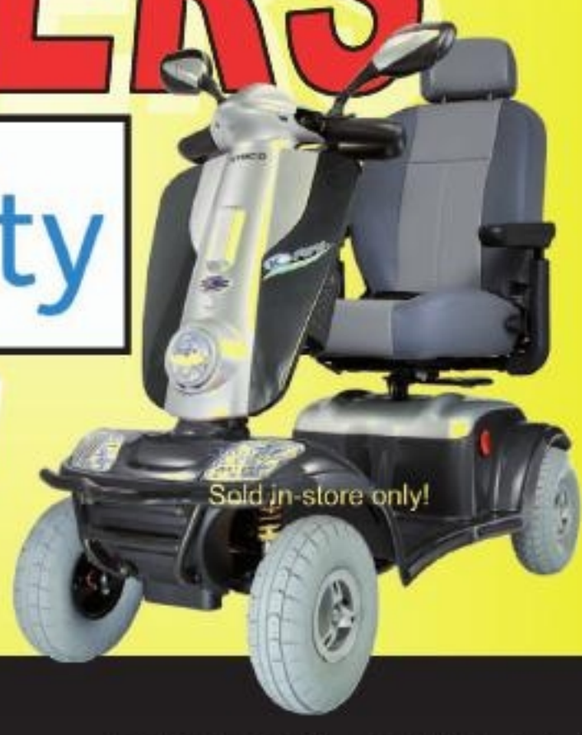

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Quartet's new direction

Ploughing On

COMEDIANS Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis are "Ploughing on Regardless', their new show coming to the Oxford Playhouse this evening.

The duo have been described as the kings of satirical comedy in the past, and discuss a range of topics relating to current affairs in this latest performance.

It starts at 8pm, and costs £20 for tickets.

More details can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com, or by calling the box office on 01865 305305.

Rob Deering

THE Cotswold Comedy Club returns to action this evening at the Chipping Norton Theatre, as Rob Deering returns with his latest show.

Rob is known for his razor-sharp wit and cheesy singing voice, and has established himself as a popular and familiar act on the UK circuit.

All tickets cost £12 for a 7.45pm start. For more details, call 01608 642350 or go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

CONTEMPORARY jazz group Kairos 4tet come to Oxford's North Wall Theatre on Wednesday, following the release of their third album 'Everything We Hold'.

Fronted by saxophonist and composer Adam Waldmann, Kairos 4tet also features bassist Jasper Høiby, drummer Jon Scott and pianist Ivo Neame.

They collaborated with actor and lyricist Rupert Friend for the latest album, a partnership that may continue into future works.

"Half of the album is vocal songs written in collaboration with Rupert, who I actually went to school with here in Oxford," said Adam.

"The response to it has been really great and I think people have taken well to the intention of this new direction, and the feedback we've had has been really warm. I'm very happy about it.

"I enjoyed collaborating with Rupert, and it seemed to work so naturally that I really wanted to explore as much as possible on this new album.

• *Adam Waldmann (second from right) and Kairos 4tet perform at the North Wall Theatre on Wednesday*

"We're already writing some new songs together at the moment. It's been very challenging but a lot of fun as well."

Adam has grown up with music for most of his life, and came to Oxford to study at Cherwell College as a teenager.

He added: "I've got two older brothers who are both musicians, so it was really trying to catch up and play music with them.

"As 16 and 17-year-olds in Oxford, we used to have a regular gig every week, and it encouraged us to learn new material and get certain things together at an early age.

"There's a good music scene in Oxford which is really encouraging. There's a real history of good rock bands, like Radiohead and now with the Foals, so it's a good time to be here and definitely helps."

The show begins at 8pm, and tickets cost £13. For more information, call 01865 319450 or go to www.thenorthwall.com.

Snow White

THE story of Snow White and the Fairy Tale Creatures, and their struggles against the evil Queen Cruella, is staged at Henley's Kenton Theatre from tonight.

Cruella orders her guards to banish all the fairytale creatures from her kingdom, but an ogre refuses to go because he has a secret crush on Snow White.

Tickets cost £13, and the show is running until Saturday. A full list of show times can be found at www.kentontheatre.co.uk, or by calling 01491 575698.

Evita in town

RENOWNED musical Evita comes to the Oxford New Theatre from Wednesday, featuring iconic lyrics and music from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Classic songs include 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina', 'On This Night of a Thousand Stars' and 'Oh What a Circus', telling the story of the life of Eva Peron and her rise to sainthood.

It is being staged until January 25, and tickets start from £12.90. For show times and booking details, call 0844 871 3020 or go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk.

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Entertainment

Grisly tales, great fun!

Twelfth Night

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, one of the Bard's most-loved comedies, is staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday.

The fast-paced production sees a dynamic narrative coupled with bursts of music, as is follows Orsino's relentless pursuit of Olivia and Malvolio's transformation.

A full list of show times and ticket prices can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com, or by phoning 01865 305305.

Bookends

Musical duo Bookends are at the Thame Players Theatre on Sunday with Simon and Garfunkel Through the Years, telling the story of the iconic musicians.

The show is a mix of multimedia, story telling and live performance, and is all about celebrating the music and career of Simon and Garfunkel.

Tickets cost £12, and begins at 7.45pm. Go to www.thameplayers.co.uk or phone 01844 217228 to book.

FAMILY theatre production Grisly Tales from Tumblewater is being performed at Oxford's Burton Taylor Studio on Saturday, with an entire ensemble of characters being played by just one person.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The story follows Daniel Dorey, who travels to the miserable and unwelcoming city of Tumblewater in search of his long lost sister.

While he is there, he encounters twisted landowner Caspian Pyre, and Daniel meets and hears many of the residents' stories in his journey to bring down the resented Caspian.

Edward Jaspers is the actor who performs over a dozen characters in the show, something he has never done on stage before.

He said: "It should be really great fun because there's no downtime at all, you walk on stage and the next thing you know the play's finished!

"You don't even have time to think what the next character is because you're suddenly them, so it's great fun, it's a good workout doing that for an hour."

Edward also spoke of a chance encounter with the author of Grisly Tales from Tumblewater Bruno Vincent in London that led to the play taking place.

"I was sent the book by a literary agent, and I just fell in love with it, it's such a fun story with a great character.

"Then I happened to bump into the author in a bar. He said to me: 'have you read any good books lately?', and one of the few books I said to him was this one, and I had no idea who he was.

"He lived in London at the time and we got on very well, and he gave me permission to turn his book into a play, and it all went from there.

"I fell in love with this book and then it really was a happy coincidence meeting the author like that."

Saturday's show starts at 2pm, and tickets cost £7.50. Go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com or call 01865 305305 to book.

• *Edward Jaspers plays every role in Grisly Tales from Tumblewater*

James Arthur

FORMER X Factor winner James Arthur brings his first headline tour to Oxford's New Theatre, which takes place on Sunday evening.

James' Brit Award nominated single 'Impossible' is the biggest-selling X Factor single since the competition began, and he worked with renowned producers Salaam Remi, Mojam and TMS on his debut album.

The show starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £32.40. To book, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020.

Nathan's stars

NATHAN Jones' All Stars Band perform at the Chipping Norton Theatre on Saturday, covering the music of Frank Sinatra, Robbie Williams and Michael Bublé among others.

The Swindon-based 20-piece band have recently completed an extensive theatre tour and the Marlborough International Jazz Festival, entertaining audiences nationwide with their extensive musical repetoire.

Tickets for Saturday's show cost £14, and starts at 7.45pm. For further details, call 01608 642350 or go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

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Whether you are teenager or an adult, get in touch with The Smile Practice to arrange a no obligation, free consultation to assess your suitability for Invisalign treatment. If you go on to book your course of Invisalign, you will also receive FREE teeth whitening.

Contact Dr. Ajay Murgai BDS.,Invialign Platinum Elite Provider, The Smile Practice, 200a Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8RN.

Call 01235 813 245 or visit www.thesmilepractice.com.

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

4					8	2		5
	3		2	1		4		
	7	6	3					9
				9	6	1	5	4
		8				7		
9	1	4	5	3				
3					5	9	6	
		7		6	2		8	
1		9	7					2

6	4							7
				6	5		8	
9	1				7			3
	2				4			
	9	7				2	1	
			7				3	
2			4				6	1
	5		6	7				
7							5	2

			2		8			1
4		5				7		
	1	3						
	6			9				
7			3		1			8
				6			9	
						5	6	
		8				3		4
1			9		5			

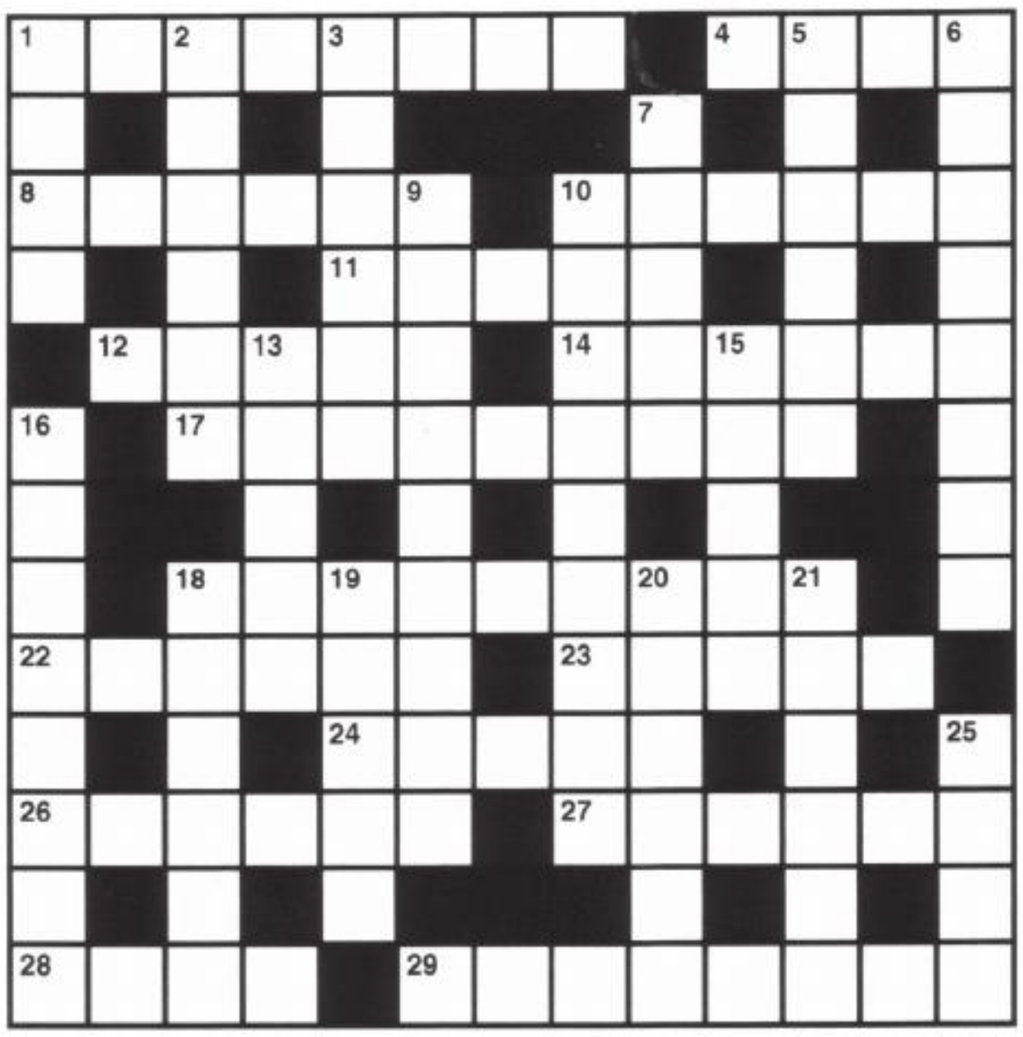
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Offshoots (8)
4 Rowing team (4)
8 Dirty (6)
10 Musical instruments (6)
11 Award (5)
12 An animal (5)
14 Express regret (6)
17 Schemers (9)
18 Small fishes (9)
22 Pamper (6)
23 Cancer (5)
24 Transactions (5)
26 Was afraid (6)
27 Proper (6)
28 Mislaid (4)
29 Was of importance (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Sculpture (4)
2 In a foreign country (6)
3 Peals (6)
5 Depends (6)
6 Laundry basins (8)
7 Confusion (5)
9 Pleased (9)
10 Festivities (9)
13 Intends (5)
15 Arrange, as feathers (5)
16 Imaginative (8)
18 Inhabitants of a continent (6)
19 Yields (5)
20 Bug (6)
21 A season (6)
25 Stained (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Beaten, but hurried round the snare (8)
4 The ones, for example, given to punters (4)
8 Rules to resign from? (6)
10 Emphatic type (6)
11 Find him in the ice without one sound (5)
12 That is after the general spirit (5)
14 Capital fever follows the pair (6)
17 Flirtation for every one in the dance (9)
18 Everything I've turned on and consumed will make it easier to bear (9)
22 Sounds like intelligence or one who exercises judgment (6)
23 But the occasion for the first woman was the Old Testament (5)
24 Never the writer to make a world tour (5)
26 Act employed getting soaked (6)
27 Emotional shock due to rum at a rumpus (6)
28 The rush that can make men's fortunes (4)
29 Peerless ones at rest (8)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Look right in it's full of life (4)
2 Elevated when extolled without a head (6)
3 Write a hundred and fortynine with it (6)
5 The flood that traditionally comes after me in France (6)
6 In this way the range of knowledge of the editor dwindled (8)
7 Hard back (5)
9 Protected what she nearly altered (9)
10 Restless because I'm sick (9)
13 Hammers home the finger guards (5)
15 Shrewd angle (5)
16 Guardian to look at the animal? (8)
18 Book for the garden? (6)
19 Look at the minister coming back as a suitor (5)
20 Opposed to a piece of poetry (6)
21 Provide with the right to last (6)
25 The crowd at the service (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

7	2	8	6	3	4	1	9	5
9	3	1	8	5	2	7	6	4
6	5	4	7	9	1	3	2	8
2	7	6	3	8	5	9	4	1
8	4	9	1	2	6	5	3	7
5	1	3	9	4	7	6	8	2
3	6	7	2	1	8	4	5	9
4	9	2	5	7	3	8	1	6
1	8	5	4	6	9	2	7	3

5	4	2	1	9	6	3	7	8
6	3	7	5	8	4	1	2	9
8	9	1	2	3	7	6	4	5
9	8	4	7	5	3	2	1	6
1	6	3	9	4	2	8	5	7
2	7	5	8	6	1	9	3	4
7	1	8	4	2	9	5	6	3
3	2	9	6	7	5	4	8	1
4	5	6	3	1	8	7	9	2

2	1	7	6	4	9	5	3	8
5	4	6	3	1	8	7	2	9
8	9	3	2	5	7	1	6	4
7	3	8	1	6	4	2	9	5
4	2	9	7	8	5	3	1	6
1	6	5	9	3	2	4	8	7
6	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	2
9	5	4	8	2	1	6	7	3
3	8	2	4	7	6	9	5	1

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Shrimp 8 Temples 9 Locate 10 Ferry boat 11 Mess 13 Stops 14 Riposte 16 Overeat 18 Cargo 19 Felt 21 Essential 22 Endive 23 Started 24 Siding
Down: 1 Deceptive 2 Spare part 3 Herbs 5 Hoot 6 Images 7 Please 9 Latin 11 Monastery 12 Stagnated 15 Raise 16 Offers 17 Eluded 20 Rests 21 Even

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Switch 8 Related 9 Cruise 10 Isolation 11 Here 13 Stabs 14 Bemused16 Average 18 Oboes 19 Lead 21 Encounter 22 Outfit 23 Detract 24 Thymes
Down: 1 Sensitive 2 Early bird 3 Depth 5 Warn 6 Tribes 7 Heeled 9 Cores 11 Husbandry 12 Reverence 15 Agent 16 Almost 17 Earthy 20 Dover 21 Eire

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25 Jan 2014, 11am - 12pm
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The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free… But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell's modern classic. *www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450*

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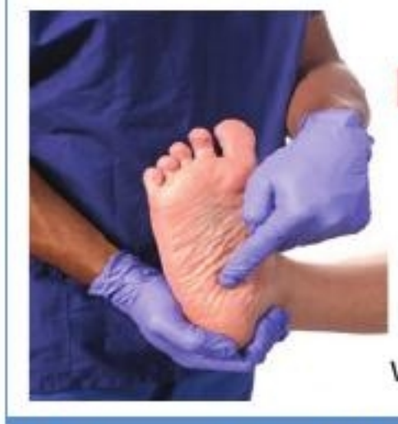

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12 Feb 2014, 7pm - 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
A NOVEMBER DAY
In forgotten boxes in an attic, a woman discovers the story of her grandfather, a survivor of the First World War, and his unexpected encounter with a stray dog who knew no boundaries. With evocative puppet characters, live music and an ever-changing set, this is a timeless fable on war and the miracle of friendship when all else seems lost.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

13 Feb - 14 Feb 2014, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR
Armed with music, killer heels and a lethal troop of divas, an enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, persecution, aggression and love. With shrapnel-sharp voices and moves as smooth as an oiled tank-chain, this cabaret troop invites you on a journey into the core of a conflicted Jewish state.
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14 Feb 2014, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK: THE EAST OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT: BARTLEMAS LEPER HOSPITAL, LITTLEMORE PRIORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES EAST OF OXFORD
by Jane Harrison. She will be talking about the discoveries made by the East Oxford Archaeology Project, and in particular about exciting excavations uncovering more about medieval Oxford, at St Bartholomew's Leper Hospital and the Priory of St Nicholas. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

13 Feb 2014, 7pm - 8:30pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
ROBIN MICHAEL (CELLO) & DANIEL TONG (PIANO)
Michael & Tong perform Brahms cello sonatas
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

15 Feb 2014, 10am - 12pm
Shotover Country Park, Oxford,
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Come along any time between 10am and 11.30am and give it a go. Just wear what you would for a run or walk. For more info visit our website at www.tvoc.org.uk, see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tvoclub or email us: publicity@tvoc.org.uk
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15 - 16 Feb 2014, 10am - 5pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
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www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

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22 - 23 Feb 2014, 10am - 5pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
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22 Feb 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/255751
20.45 Beard Of Destiny
21.30 The Lucky Club
22.15 The Heavy Dexters"

25 - 26 Feb 2014, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BRAND NEW ANCIENTS
Poet and spoken word artist Kate Tempest tells an everyday epic over an exhilarating live score played by tuba, cello, violin, drums and electronics, that finds the gods of today all around us and reveals that our true heroes are much closer than we think.
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28 Feb 2014, 8pm - 8pm
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1 Mar 2014, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
GRANDPA'S RAILWAY
Featuring a working model railway, live music and two very playful characters, Grandpa's Railway is a journey of discovery that explores the past, illuminates the present and lays new tracks for the future. Tickets: £7
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5 Mar - 6 Mar 2014, 8pm
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13 Mar 2014, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
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The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
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20.45 Halber Mensch
21.30 Sebastian Melmoth
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2 Apr 2014, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
VISITORS
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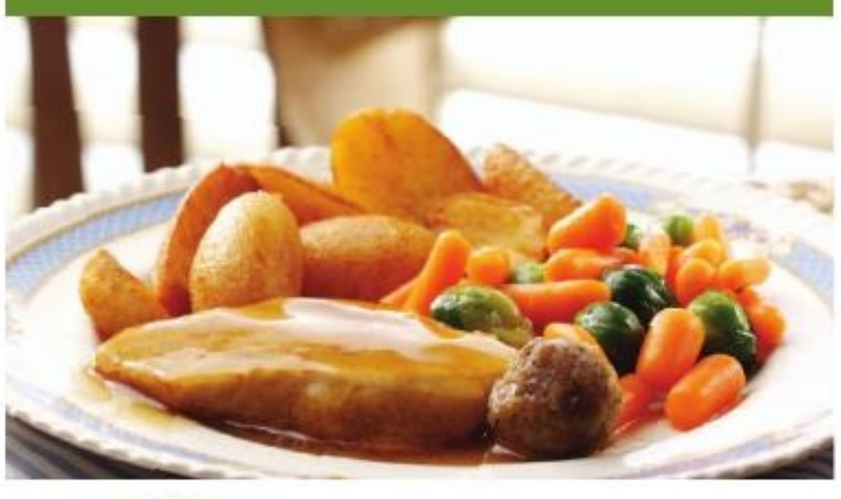

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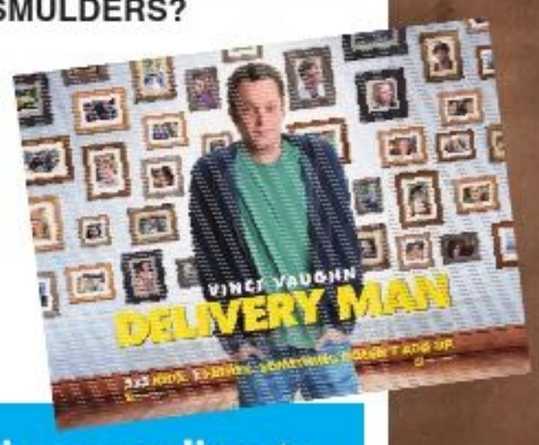

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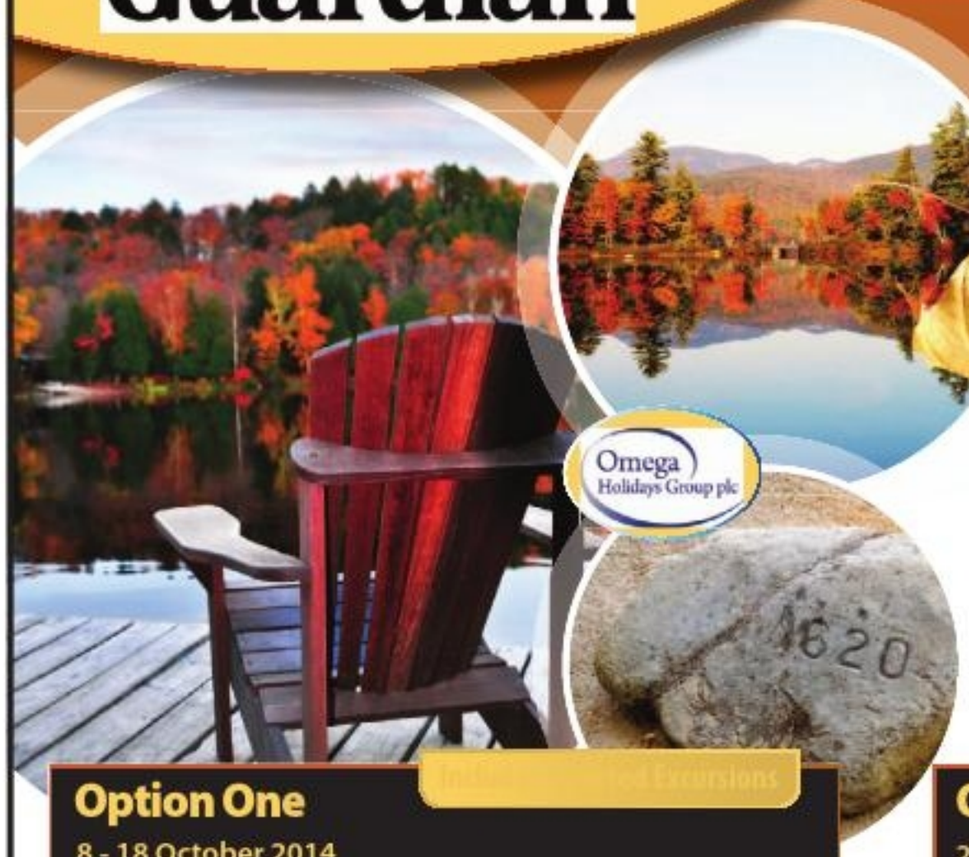

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Horoscopes

By Cassandra Nye

Your life in the stars

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)
Someone you met recently seems to be making quite an impression on you. You may not completely trust them yet but the signs are good. Of course, everyone needs to be flexible. Situations can change from week to week. As long as you keep a practical eye on finances, though, this is a time of amazing opportunity. Good advice is gold.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)
Taking care of yourself must be given top priority this week. Whatever is happening around you can probably be dealt with by someone else. Although someone you trust can be consulted on a financial matter, be organised. Good food, fresh air and a stress-less few days will not go amiss. Get closer to your own needs, thoughts and feelings. We all need that from time to time.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)
Whatever else is important in your life right now, the need for friends is paramount. Socialising over the holiday has given you an appetite for more, and why not? With others settling back to work this week it can be hard to get them enthused about going out for fun. Bide your time when it comes to meeting someone special. Just make friends in general.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
When some well-deserved praise comes your way it may have taken a long time arriving. It should be no less satisfying for all that. Colleagues at work may be demanding more time than you would like to give. Sometimes it can be a fine balancing act between home and career. Even so, the rewards, this week, are beginning to show themselves.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)
What starts as a fairly quiet week could turn spiky mid-week. Someone could be pulling at your heartstrings and maybe even trying to use a bit of bribery. Start as you mean to go on and make your position clear. No guilt trips for you, just a strong leap into the future. Those that share it with you will tend to be supportive and intelligent, not clingy and negative.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There is little you enjoy more than a good conversation. This week, then, should be a real delight to you. Loving relationships are able to go up a gear and some bright sparks are set to fly. Romance will not be set aside, even for the money matters which come up midweek. Yes, the Full Moon is shining a light on your finances. All goes well but do be sure to check the small print!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
In an active and exciting week it is important to be both flexible and determined. Although you want to be helpful, financial consideration must come first. A Full Moon has a way of making others more demanding and the mid-week one will be no exception. Stay calm and if necessary delay a decision until you have time to get your plans and finances in order.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)
After a rather hectic week you need to look for friends and companions who are a bit lighter of spirit. This is a time when the highlight mid-week is a social encounter. It could turn out to be important in the longer term. Someone who is unusual and a bit of an enigma comes your way. How will you react? It will be fun finding out and it will tell you a lot about yourself!

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)
Both friends and lovers are thrown into sharp relief with the Full Moon mid-week. There will be choices to be made, but not yet. Business and pleasure seem to mix well but you need to be on your toes to take advantage of a new contact. When trying to help others information comes your way that could be invaluable in your career. Instincts are sharp so trust them more.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)
You know exactly how you like things to be both at home and work. At the moment, however, a loved one could be having a bit of a strop! Making it clear that they cannot have their own way is awkward but not impossible. Try distracting their attention while you get your own plans into motion. An older relative may need your care, so don't overlook this occasion.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)
Is someone trying to play games with your emotions? Does your heart cry out for a simpler life? Step aside and concentrate on something entirely different. It is said that a change is as good as a rest and this could well be the case this week. Certainly, taking charge of your own time is like a breath of fresh air. Breathe deeply and switch off negative thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)
Communications with family, friends and lovers is peaking right now. Great conversations and ground-breaking ideas flow easily as the Full Moon glows mid-week. Think big and stay grounded. Is someone asking you for financial advice? Seek someone with experience rather than winging it. When it comes to your personal affairs, however, your instincts are spot on.

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Film of the week

Advertising Feature

Wolfing it all down

By **Damon Smith**

BASED on the memoir of New York stockbroker Jordan Belfort, The Wolf Of Wall Street is a lurid portrait of debauchery following the same misaligned moral compass as Oliver Stone's Oscar-winning 1987 drama Wall Street.

Greed isn't just good, it's a cornerstone of this gaudy, hallucinogenic American dream, allowing the unscrupulous to prey on the weak and vulnerable in order to finance flashy apartments, fast cars and copious amounts of nose candy.

It's hard to believe that 71-year-old Martin Scorsese, whose last film was the family-friendly fantasy Hugo, is the ringmaster of this booze-, sex-, coke- and testosterone-fuelled circus.

The director pulls no punches in his depiction of Belfort's wild excesses including myriad scenes of pill-popping and a slow motion orgy on a private jet - the film wears its 18 certificate as a badge of honour.

"On a daily basis, I take enough drugs to sedate Manhattan, Staten Island and Queens... for a month," boasts Jordan (Leonardo DiCaprio) in his opening voiceover.

He owns a sprawling mansion replete with swimming pool, tennis court and waterfall, plus a white Ferrari "like Don Johnson's in Miami Vice."

In flashback, we meet Jordan as he nervously starts a position with brokers at Rothschild, where charismatic golden boy, Mark Hanna (Matthew McConaughey), takes the newcomer under his tailored wing.

In the aftermath of Black Monday, Jordan loses his job and is forced to sell penny stocks at a fly-by-night operation in Long Island.

Blessed with the gift of the gab, Jordan excels and decides to open his own firm, Stratton Oakmont, with salesman Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill). The business goes from strength to strength and Jordan jettisons his wife Teresa (Cristin Milioti) to romance blonde bombshell Naomi Lapaglia (Margot Robbie).

Meanwhile, the 'work hard, play harder' mantra of Stratton Oakmont attracts the attentions of tenacious FBI Agent Patrick Denham (Kyle Chandler), who resolves to bring down Jordan and his gluttonous inner circle.

Scorsese's directorial brio coupled with DiCaprio's twitchy lead performance ease some of the pain of the excessive running time, and the nasty stink of the script's depiction of women as suckers and sex objects.

While individual scenes pulsate with misplaced youthful exuberance, as a whole, The Wolf Of Wall Street and its repugnant characters overstay their welcome. We hanker for a shower to wash away the grubbiness and grime of Jordan's enterprises well before the three hours are up.

The Wolf of Wall Street

RELEASED: January 17

RATING: 18

RUNNING: 180 mins

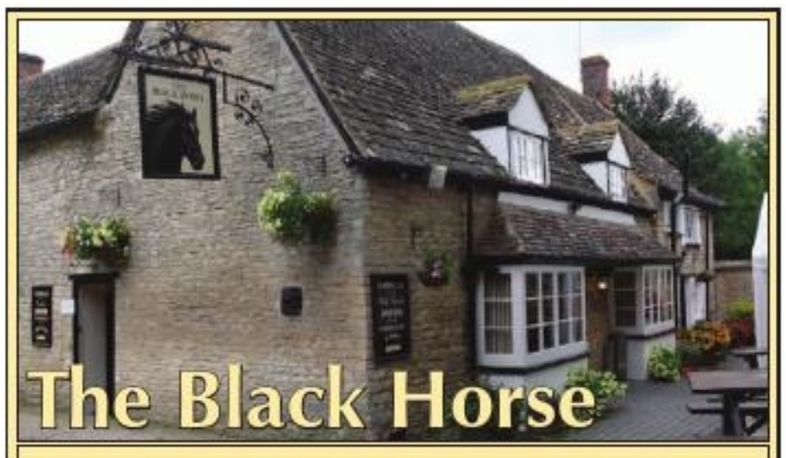
DRAMA/COMEDY/ ROMANCE.

STARING: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill, Margot Robbie, Matthew McConaughey, Jean Dujardin, Kyle Chandler, Joanna Lumley, Cristin Milioti.

DIRECTOR: Martin Scorsese.

• SWEARING • SEX • VIOLENCE

• *Pictured: Leonardo DiCaprio. Picture credit: PA Photo/Universal Pictures International.*



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Green fingers

Advertising Feature

New year, new garden

Introducing innovative ideas on design into your garden

By **Hannah Stephenson**

IF YOU'VE had time over the festive season to leaf through those gardening book gifts, or to visit a public garden and walk off those Christmas excesses, you'll hopefully be awash with innovative ideas on designs to replicate in your own garden in the new year.

If you are redesigning an established garden, you can retain mature features, moving large shrubs and border plants to create an immediate effect. The proportion of plants and features to open space in the garden is all-important and the general rule is one-third planting to two-thirds space. You need that space to properly be able to see your garden and all its features.

Yet the garden can consist of many elements. Even a small garden could incorporate a mixture of different aspects, from lawn and paving to gravel, water and pebbles.

Vertical dimension will prevent an otherwise flat area from looking boring. In a large garden, for example, tall trees will take the eye upwards, while in a medium-sized garden pergolas, arches and arbours are useful devices.

Consider using a few bold focal points to draw the eye across the garden at an angle, which can help to overcome the shortcomings of a really tiny space. Drawing the eye to focal points elsewhere can also detract attention from an unattractive object or area, rather than attempting to screen it.

Too many plants end up cramped between fences and lawn in boring, straight borders which do nothing for the plants or the view. Think about introducing interesting curves to your borders to give them a more fluid feel.

The minimum width for a border should be around 1m (40in) and even with that, you'll be limited to dwarf shrubs and fairly small perennials.

You may think that planting the tallest plants at the back of the border and graduating until you have the smallest plants at the front is the best way to go, but there are certain plants you can use to break with tradition.

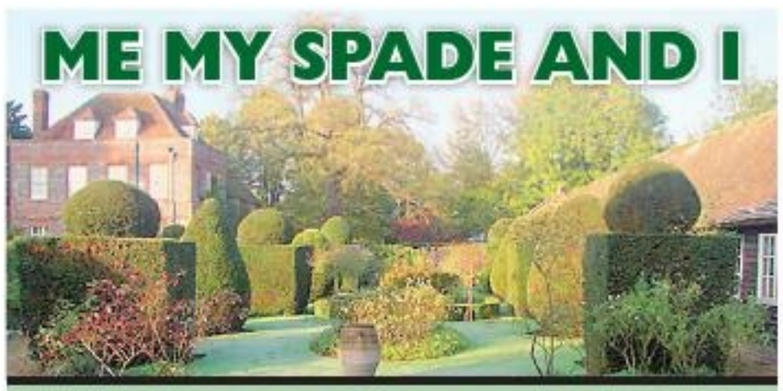
Height in the foreground, as long as it doesn't block the line of vision, increases perspective and can make the garden seem longer. For this you can use wispy grasses such as Stipa gigantea, or perennials that produce light flower spikes such as Digitalis lutea, or see-through specimens such as Verbena bonariensis, which don't block the view of what's behind them.

Of course, before any project can start, consider the type of gardener you are. Do you want a low-maintenance plot, or one you can endlessly potter in? How much time will you realistically be able to spend each week maintaining that space?

Draw up a plan either on a computer or with pencil and (preferably graph or squared) paper, to make an outline of the existing garden and its dimensions. Include existing features you want to keep and potential obstacles such as manhole covers which you'll need to work around. Mark the direction of the sun, where it falls at particular times of the day and any permanent shadow. Then put tracing paper over the original plan and sketch ideas of your own, experimenting with layout and plantings, bearing in mind what the vista will look like from the house, both downstairs and upstairs.

And don't make it too complicated. Remember clean lines and simple shapes will always work best - in design, less is often more.

• *A person making a plan of what to grow where in their garden. Picture credit: PA Photo/ Thinkstockphotos.*



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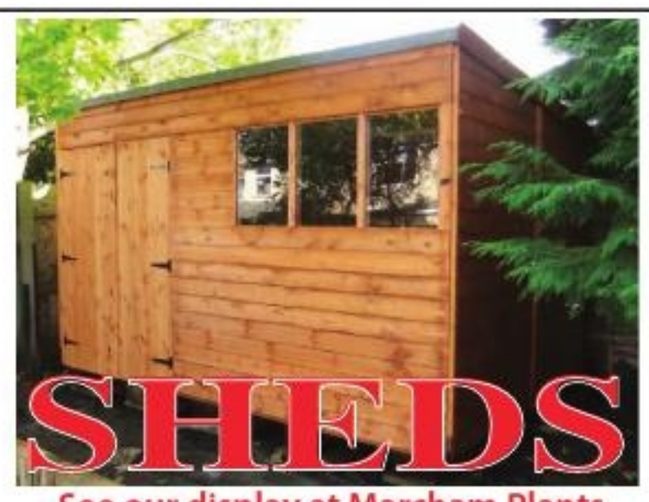

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AUTOWEEKLY

The return of a classic

SINCE it was first launched in 1998, the Ford Focus has become a familiar sight on our roads, blending enough style, practicality and drivability, to ensure it has enjoyed class-leading popularity.

REVIEW: FORD FOCUS
By **Philip Shoulder**
@writeonmotoring

This new third-generation model is the first Focus to be built under the new 'One Ford' plan, making it the first global Focus.

However, engine and trim levels are market specific, and the main UK variants include: Edge, Zetec, Zetec S, Titanium Navigator and Titanium Navigator X, with the petrol engine lineup ranging from the 99 bhp and 123 bhp 1.0 litre Ecoboost, to the 148 bhp and 178 bhp 1.6 Ecoboost units. There are 1.6 and 2.0 diesels, too.

With 148 bhp on tap, this 1.6 Ecoboost engine is capable of decent performance, although it perhaps lacks the flexibility of a similarly powered diesel; requiring the driver to use ample revs to wring out the motor's available power.

On the other hand, when driven more gently, this engine is capable of returning pretty decent fuel consumption and emission figures (47.9mpg and 137g/km of CO2) while also being an effective cruiser.

Of course, previous Focus models were known for being great to drive and this new car is no exception, with sweet, agile handling, good body-control and grip levels, together with well-weighted and precise steering. Strong, progressive brakes and an accurate gear change complete the driver rewarding package.

The Focus's cabin isn't quite as commodious as a VW Golf's, but there's still ample leg and headroom for four occupants. Slightly disappointing is the 316 litre boot – considerably off class best – although unusually for a hatchback, the rear seats do fold completely flat.

Admittedly, rear three-quarter vision is rather restricted (par-for-the-course in most modern hatchbacks), but the driving position is first-class, due to spot-on alignment of seat, steering wheel and pedals, with generous amounts of adjustment available.

Air-conditioning is standard across the range, while Zetec trim provides DAB radio and Ford Navigation, Bluetooth and a heated windscreen.

Verdict:

The latest Focus builds on the strengths of its predecessors, while now offering considerably better safety and refinement; along with a higher overall quality of fit and finish. This 148bhp 1.6 Ecoboost model blends warm-hatch levels of performance with reasonable running costs.

• *The new Ford Focus*

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Focus range: urban 42.8-35.3 (6.6-8.0), extra urban 65.7-60.1 (4.3-4.7), combined 54.3-47.9 (5.2-5.9). Official CO2 emissions 134-136g/km.
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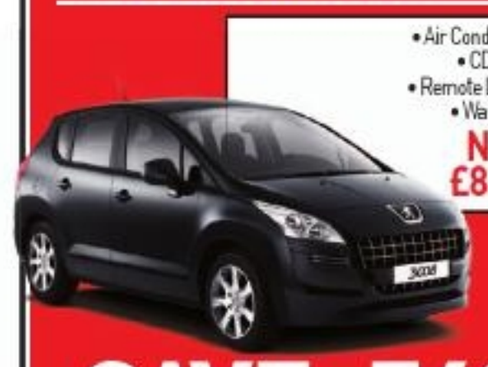

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10 10 BMW 325D 3.0 325D SE, white, alloys, audio remote control, c/locking, climate control, driver airbag, e/m & w, 72k **£11,995**

10 60 BMW 320D EFFICIENCY DYNAMIC SALOON, white, alloys, radio/CD, a/c, rear sensors, FSH, 83k **£11,495**

10 10 MAZDA 3 SPORT 2.2 DIESEL, white, alloys, climate control, e/windows and mirrors, FSH, 40k **£9,995**

10 60 MAZDA 3 1.6D TS2, met silver, sat nav, climate control, alloys, e/windows and mirrors, FSH, 37k **£9,295**

11 60	**BMW 118D 2.0 M-SPORT,** met grey with half black leather, alloys, climate contol, FSH,1 owner, only 14k	£13,995
10 10	**BMW 325D 3.0 325D SE,** white, alloys, audio remote control, c/locking, climate control, driver airbag, e/m & w, 72k	£11,995
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10 10	**MAZDA 3 SPORT 2.2 DIESEL,** white, alloys, climate control, e/windows and mirrors, FSH, 40k	£9,995
08 08	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDI S-LINE ESTATE DIESEL,** met black, alloys, climate control, radio/CD, FSH, 72k,	£9,995
10 60	**TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0 TD4 D-4D,** met black, full cream leather, sat nav, heated seats, radio/CD, 78k, FSH	£9,995
10 60	**AUDI A3 1.6 TDI SE,** met blue, 5dr, alloys, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, remote locking, FSH, 76k, £20 rfl	£9,995
10 60	**MAZDA 3 1.6D TS2,** met silver, sat nav, climate control, alloys, e/windows and mirrors, FSH, 37k	£9,295
09 09	**AUDI A3 1.9 TDI SE,** 5dr, met silver, e/windows, e/mirrors, a/c, radio/CD, alloys, 68k, FSH	£8,795
09 59	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM TDCI,** met silver, 5dr, a/c, heated front screen, alloys, FSH, 48k	£8,495
10 10	**HONDA JAZZ i-VTEC EX 1.4,** 5dr, met silver, climate, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, radio/CD, 28k, FSH	now £8,495
09 58	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCi ZETEC ESTATE AUTO,** met black, a/c, radio/CD, alloys, front fogs, 33k, FSH	£8,495
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10 60	**FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 5 DR,** white, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, airbags, 28k, FSH	£6,995
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04 54	**VW PASSAT SALOON 2.0 TRENDLINE,** met silver, radio cassette & CD, climate control, alloys, only 65k, FSH	£3,495
03 03	**RENAULT KANGOO 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION,** met green, front fogs, radio/CD, e/windows, FSH, 85k	£2,995
96 N	**MITSUBISHI SHOGUN GLS 3.0 V6 SWB,** green, a/c, e/windows and e/mirrors, FSH, only 57k	£2,695
05 55	**NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 SE 5 DR,** met blue, climate control, rear parking sensors, 74k, FSH	£2,495
02 02	**NISSAN PRIMERA 1.8 SE PETROL ESTATE,** met silver, reverse camera, climate, e/windows, FSH, only 63k	£2,295
03 53	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION AUTO,** 5dr, royal blue, sunroof, e/windows & mirrors, radio/CD, 50k, FSH	now £2,295
1990	**H TOYOTA COROLLA 1.3 GL,** grey, 3dr, PART EXCHANGE TO CLEAR, 91k	£750

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10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise, 5 airbags, alloys, r/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low miles 15,000, FSH
£9,591

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles
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13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800, RFL £30 per year
£12,995

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, low mileage, service history, 12,000 miles
£11,995

03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH
£3,995

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles
£11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles
£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles
£6,995

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH
£12,595

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles
£8,995

13 63 FIESTA 1.0 PETROL 100PS ZETEC, 5dr, EX JULIANS DEMONSTRATOR, frozen white/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, Ford Sync, DAB r/CD, B'tooth, hands free, voice control, c/l, a/c, heated screen, City pack, (rear park sensors & power folding mirrors), front fogs, 5 a/b, PAS, alloys, 2 years & 8 months manufacturers warranty, 1,031 miles
£11,495

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13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 2000 miles, DUE IN SOON
£13,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles
£14,995

07 07 MAZDA 3 SPORT D 2.0 DIESEL 143PS 5DR HATCH, black mica/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD player, PAS, climate, front fogs, 8 airbags, ABS, ESP, service history, 61,414 miles
£5,395

MINIMUM £1000 PART EXCHANGE

10 60 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, climate con, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, front fogs, low mileage, 2 owners from new, 26,725 miles, FSH ..... SOLD

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £4,995

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £8,995

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles. ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £6,995

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, front & rear park sensors, PAS, 7 a/b, auto lights & wipers, Blue tooth, service history, one owner from new, 35,814 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £9,495

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £14,995

FIESTA

13 63 FIESTA 1.0 PETROL 100PS ZETEC, 5dr, EX JULIANS DEMONSTRATOR, frozen white/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, Ford Sync, DAB radio CD, Blue tooth, hands free, voice control, c/l, a/c, heated screen, City pack, (rear park sensors & power folding mirrors), front fogs, 5 airbags, PAS, alloys, 2 years & 8 months manufacturers warranty, 1,031 miles. ..... SOLD

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH. £9,591

FUSION

10 60 FUSION 1.4 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, r/CD, 2 airbags, PAS, HFS, alloys, ABS, air con, one owner from new, low mileage 19,300 miles £7,795

C MAX S MAX B MAX

11 11 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 116PS TITANIUM 7 SEAT DIESEL, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, climate control, Blue tooth connectivity, 8,332 miles £13,995

12 12 S MAX 1.6T ECOBOOST 160PS TITANIUM, panther black met/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, Blue tooth connectivity, HFS, climate, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, cruise, PAS, one owner, full service history, very low mileage 6,200 miles ... £16,595

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH £12,595

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year £12,995

FOCUS

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC AUTO, 5dr, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, 6 spd auto, air con, Blue tooth, alloys heated screen, front fogs, DAB radio & CD, one owner from new, very low mileage 9,313 miles. £11,595

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles £10,395

08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles. £5,595

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles £11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles. £8,995

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM, 5dr, chilli met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, a/c, HFS, auto h'lights & wipers, PAS, power start button, key less entry, DAB r/CD, rear park sensors, cruise, heated seats, 6 airbags, ABS, one owner, FSH, low mileage 23,758 ..... £8,995

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 3,413 miles £13,995

11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, r/CD, alloys, one owner, FSH, 5 months manufacturer's warranty, very low mileage 20,000 miles, DUE IN SOON £9,595

KA

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, flame red/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty. £7,995

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty £8,195

OTHER MAKES

07 07 MAZDA 3 SPORT D 2.0 DIESEL 143PS 5DR HATCH, black mica/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD player, PAS, climate, front fogs, 8 airbags, ABS, ESP, service history, 61,414 miles £5,395

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD, PAS, climate control, front fogs, 8 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front and rear parking sensors, park assist, roof rails, one owner from new, very low mileage, SH, 12,000 miles £11,995

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04 54 FOCUS .16I PETROL LX HATCH, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, PAS, e/w, heated front screen, alloys, r/CD, 4 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, 76,474 miles £2,995

03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH £3,995

03 53 FOCUS GHIA 2.0 PETROL AUTO ESTATE, deep rosso red met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6 CD player, PAS, climate, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, traction control, 3 owners from new, service history, low mileage for age 73,281 miles £3,495

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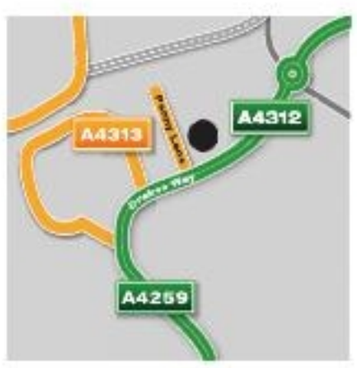

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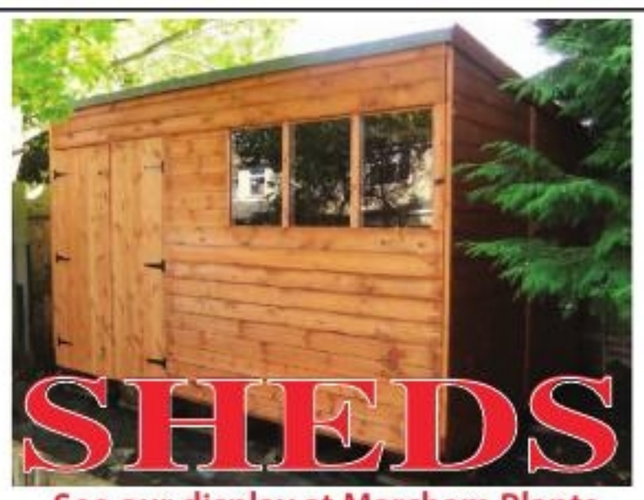

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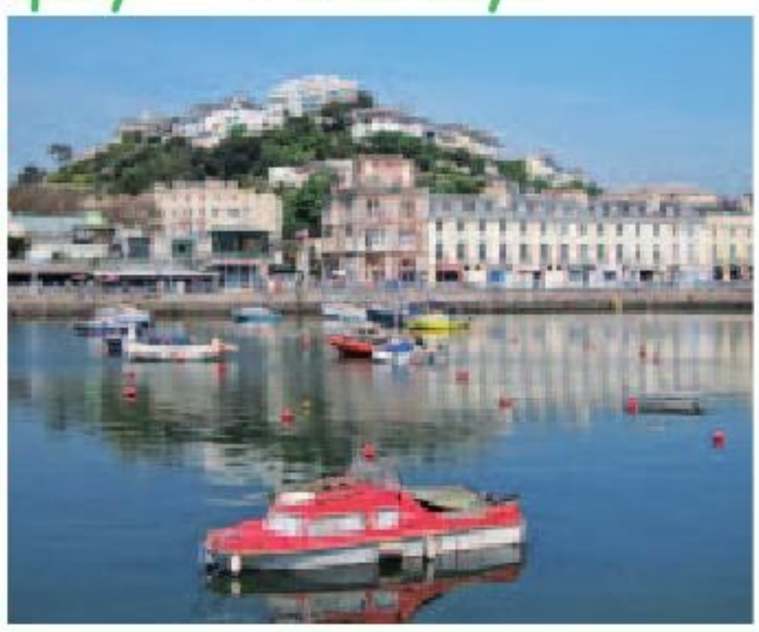

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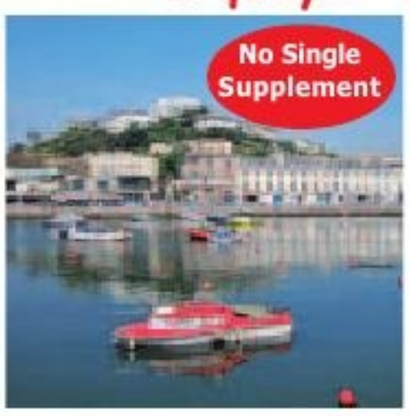

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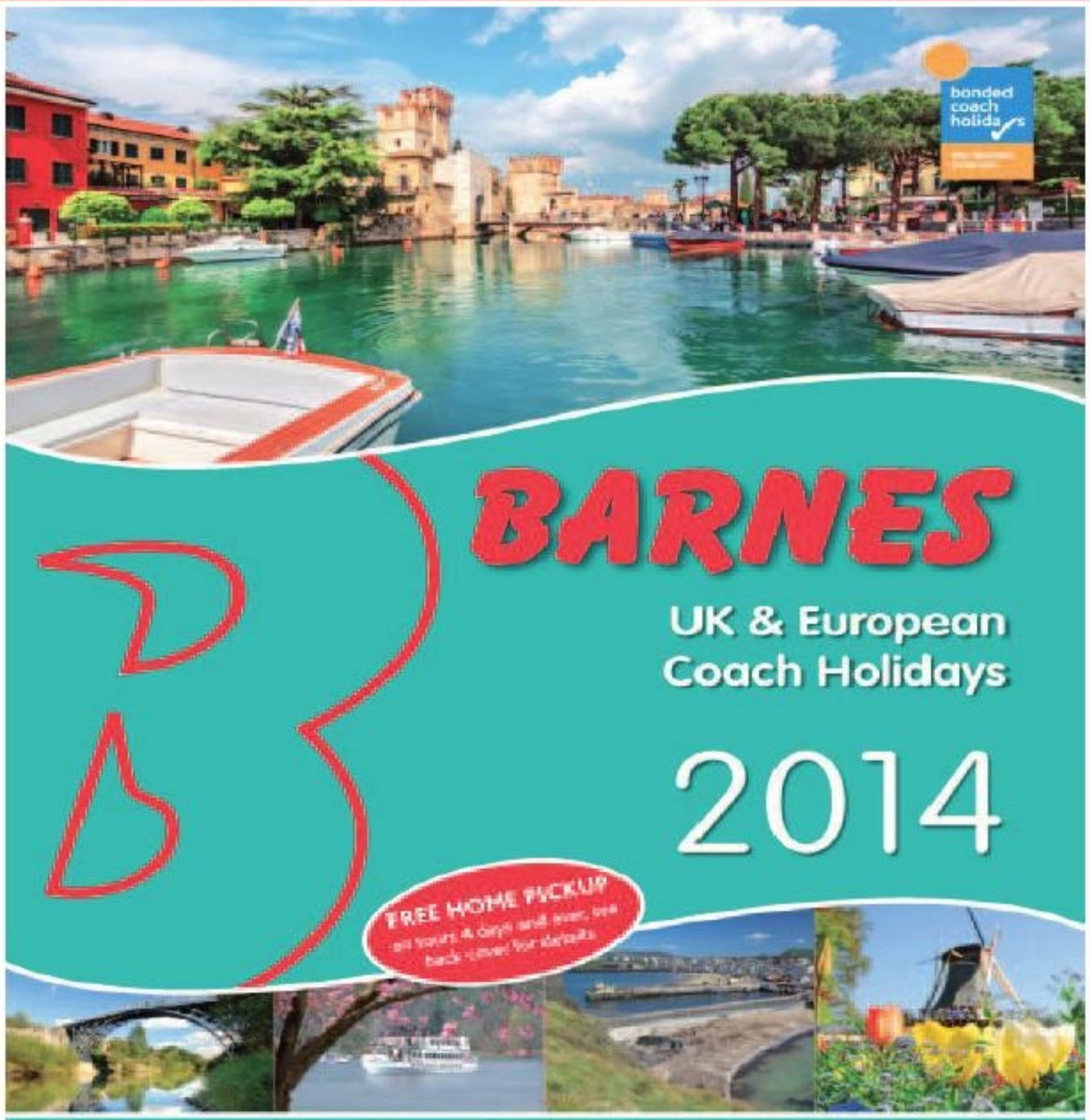

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Cup replay beckons for Wilder's courageous U's

CHRIS Wilder seemed to relish in the 'full-blooded cup-tie' that saw Oxford United force a replay with Championship strugglers Charlton on Tuesday night.

The U's stormed into a 2-0 half-time lead, with Johnny's Mullins' deflected effort and Scott Davies' powerful low drive setting Wilder's men on course for a famous FA Cup win.

However, second half efforts from Michael Morrison and Yann Kermorgant means the two sides will battle it out all over again at the Kassam Stadium on Tuesday for a place in the fourth round.

The problematic Valley pitch, unable to cope with the recent bad weather, has decimated Charlton's fixtures of late, and this tie was finally being played after twice being postponed.

And the muddy surface only added to the competitiveness of the occasion.

"They were tough conditions for everybody," said Wilder. "It was a full blooded cup tie, and we've pushed a Championship team pretty close, so we can take a lot out of it.

"The players gave us everything. We changed the side around – three players came in [goalscorer Davies, as well as youngsters Josh Ruffels and Tyrone Marsh] and have done extremely well.

"The players fought really hard to put us in a great position, but you've got to credit the opposition for coming back strongly.

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"They got their first goal at a good time, and it gave them a platform to go and push on for a second.

"It was good performances all round, and we can take a lot of heart from that.

"People might say 'that's our opportunity missed, but we have to go and show that we're still in the cup tie and we've got a fighting shout.

"We've given them a tough night, and hopefully in the replay we can do the same."

Wilder also reserved praise for another excellent showing on the road, and hopes the result can give his side momentum going into Saturday's trip to nearby Wycombe.

"Hopefully we'll take a fantastic following to Wycombe. Our away form has, yet again, been outstanding. We've come to a Championship side and can be proud of our performance.

"Both teams had a right go at it – two committed sides that wanted to get in the next round, and no doubt it will be the same come the replay."

Charlton Athletic 2
Oxford United 2

• Johnny Mullins (pictured) and Scott Davies grabbed the goals for Oxford against Charlton (Picture by Steve Daniels)

Engineering appointments at Williams

GROVE-BASED Williams F1 has expanded its engineering team ahead of the 2014 season, with three new appointments being made.

Jakob Andreasen has joined as head of engineering operations, and will work on the continued design and development of the FW36, Williams' car for the new season, from the factory.

He is joined by Craig Wilson as head of vehicle dynamics, and by Rod Nelson as chief test and support engineer.

Pat Symonds, Williams F1 team chief technical officer, said: "Williams is determined to make strong improvements in our competitiveness over the coming seasons.

"Our engineering team for the coming season is looking strong and I'm excited about what we can achieve moving forwards."

During the week, Williams also confirmed that they would be attending the first pre-season test, taking place at the Spanish circuit of Jerez from January 28 to 31.

Another loss for the Hawks

HENLEY Hawks succumbed to their fifth defeat in a row on Saturday, with an 18-10 defeat at home to Coventry.

The Hawks have been struggling in recent games, which has seen them drop to 12th in the SSE National League One

But it was a better day for Chinnor, who came back from last week's one point loss to win by a point this week, beating Redruth away from home 26-25.

They are now 10th in the SSE National League Two South, with 46 points from their opening 18 games.

In the South West 1 East, Oxford Harlequins continued their dominant season as they thrashed Salisbury 82-10, notable for Jack Robinson's third consecutive hat-trick.

Harlequins are comfortably top of the table with 66 points from 15 games, 13 ahead of closest rivals Windsor.

There was also success for Grove in the same league, as they convincingly beat Towcestrians 38-12 on home soil.

They remain eighth in the standings with 35 points, and have a match in hand to many of the teams around them.

Henley travel to Hull Ionians, Chinnor host Canterbury, Harlequins are away to Swindon while Grove make the trip to Cheltenham on Saturday.

Kidlington prove a point against Ardley

OXFORDSHIRE'S non-league football teams returned to action on Saturday, after many fixtures since the New Year had to be postponed because of the weather.

Kidlington played host to Ardley United, and held the Hellenic Premier League leaders to a 0-0 draw.

However Shrivenham were beaten in their league match against Wootton Bassett Town, losing 2-1 at home.

Abingdon Town's game with Binfield was called off, as Town's Culham Road ground may be out of action for several weeks after being a couple of feet underwater at one stage.

Ardley remain top with a four-point advantage over Wantage Town, with Kidlington 12th, Shrivenham 16th and Abingdon Town bottom.

Elsewhere, Chinnor were knocked out in the quarter finals of the Wycombe Senior Cup on Tuesday, as they lost 1-0 against Burnham.

Ardley's clash with Oxford City Nomads in round three of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, due to be played last night, was postponed.

Saturday's Hellenic fixtures see Ardley host Wantage Town, Kidlington travel to Binfield and Shrivenham make the journey to Ascot United.

Sport Bites

Deta misses out on first world title

OXFORDSHIRE county darts player Deta Hedman suffered heartache in the BDO Women's Worlds Darts Championship on Saturday, as she was beaten by Lisa Ashton three sets to two.

Hedman was two sets to nil ahead and was one leg away from winning the championship, until a remarkable comeback by Ashton secured her a first world title.

This was the second world championship final Hedman had played in, after losing to Anastasia Dobromyslova 2-1 in the 2012 event.

Stars keep on shining

OXFORD City Stars continued their impressive season in the National Ice Hockey League Two on Sunday, with a 5-1 victory against Wightlink Tigers.

It was Stars' fifth win in a row and means they are second in the standings, level on 20 points with leaders Slough Jets but with a match in hand.

They return to action on Sunday, and travel to Cardiff Devils 2.

New centre at Oxford RL

OXFORD Rugby League have announced the signing of centre Callum Mulkeen, who joins from the University of Gloucestershire All Golds.

Mulkeen has previously represented Ireland Students and Ireland A, where he played in last year's amateur Four Nations tournament.

Oxford coach Tony Benson said: "He is quick on his feet and elusive and with time in our team he will flourish. I fully expect him to become a very valuable member of the team."

Late equaliser helps in City's relegation battle

KAYDEN Jackson came off the bench to score an injury time equaliser as Oxford City drew 1-1 with Colwyn Bay in the Skrill North last Saturday.

Mike Ford's men looked to be heading for their 10th defeat of the season but Jackson fired low past Chris Sanna in the Colwyn goal.

Rob Hopley bundled the ball over the line on 72 minutes to put eighth placed Colwyn ahead but City, who weathered a first half storm, came back to claim a point.

Ford's side are 18th in the Skrill North with 23 points and will hope this weekend's home game against Altrincham will beat the weather.

Oxford City Nomads had their Hellenic Premier Division match against Cheltenham Saracens at Marsh Lane postponed last Sunday because of the weather, and Ford will hope that the pitch has improved for this weekend.

Meanwhile, new signing Juli Serrano made his debut as a second half substitute against Colwyn Bay.

The 22-year-old Spaniard has joined from Finnish side Seinajoen Jalkapallokerho.

ABINGDON Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Football: Cup replay beckons for Wilder's courageous U's | Hockey: Another loss for the Hawks

ZOLDAN LOOKS FOR REACTION

U's hope to bounce back against Thame

ANDY Zoldan is looking for a reaction from his players as Abingdon United welcome Thame United to the Northcourt in the Hellenic Premier Division this Saturday.

United suffered their second successive league defeat last weekend with a 5-2 home loss at fellow strugglers Newbury.

A win last weekend would have seen Zoldan's men move above third from bottom Newbury but the defeat leaves them three points behind the Berkshire Club and in 19th place.

The result does not tell the full story as United created several opportunities to put the game to bed with the game at 2-2.

When asked if he thought last Saturday was a missed opportunity, Zoldan said: "Yes I do.

"I think if we had gone a little bit more defensive to start with that may have been better for us.

"I'd say judgement on my behalf was wrong.

"If we had started more defensively, which we have in the other games and won, then we could have held out at 0-0 and won it one or two nil.

"But because it was one we thought we could win we went a little more attacking and we ended up paying the price for that but it could have been so much different had we put our chances away at 2-2.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We've lost ground but the best thing we can do is bounce back and put in a better performance on Saturday."

Even if United finish second from bottom it is still unknown whether or not that will mean relegation due to principles established by the Leagues Committee of the FA.

At the end of the season, the two clubs at the top of each Division One may be promoted to the Premier Division provided that in the opinion of the Management Committee the facilities are satisfactory.

However, with 11 games remaining Zoldan is targeting at least third from bottom.

"That is our realistic target," he said, "and anything from there we would have to expect the teams above to continue bad runs.

"There are a few teams in the positions above us that are not getting results either but are picking up one or two wins.

"There is lots of talk about one or two teams going down but we won't know until the leagues sit down and talk.

"I'd be happier if we were sat fourth bottom rather than second bottom."

• *Abingdon United's Adam Doyle in action against Newbury last week (Picture by Chris Janes)*

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